



HERBERT M. SACHS
DIRECTOR

ORIGINAL
(Red)

STATE OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WATER RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION
TAWES STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

September 15, 1975

The Honorable Francis B. Burch
Attorney General of Maryland
1 South Calvert Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear General Burch:

In August, 1974, the Water Resources Administration initiated an investigation into the liquid disposal practices of Galaxy Chemical, Inc. at the Maryland Sand and Gravelstone Company located in Cecil County. This initial investigation revealed that serious pollution of a tributary to Mill Creek has occurred as a result of the disposal practices of toxic chemical substances.

Accordingly, on August 26, 1974, the Administration issued a Complaint and Order which required that the Maryland Sand and Gravelstone Company cease and desist all dumping and/or permitting of dumping of chemical wastes on the Company property.

Subsequent to this administrative action, extensive investigation of the environmental impact on the surface and groundwater quality continued. This investigation revealed that waters of the State have been contaminated by toxic organic chemicals identical to those dumped. A biological analysis of the affected stream revealed that only pollution tolerant organisms were evident as a result of the improper disposal.

On October 15, 1974, a Complaint was issued by the Administration to Galaxy Chemicals, Inc. requiring them to appear before the Administration on November 14, 1974, to answer the charges cited in the Complaint.

On December 12, 1974, the Administration issued Orders to Galaxy Chemicals, Inc. and Maryland Sand and Gravelstone Company. These Orders outlined the measures necessary to correct the pollution problem.

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Due to the complexities of determining and implementing the best practicable method of abating the pollution problem, the Administration issued Supplemental Orders extending the deadlines for compliance. To effect compliance with the Supplemental Orders, methods which have been employed to minimize further contamination of waters of the State include the hauling away of wastewaters ponded at the disposal site and the containment and burial of wastewaters and sludges in clay-lined pits. The containment and burial procedures are still in progress at this time.

Recent water quality sampling of the affected stream indicates a gradual improvement, although insufficient to effect an improvement of the biological conditions as evidenced by a biological survey conducted on July 2, 1975.

Because of the serious affect on waters of the State as a result of the disposal practices by Galaxy Chemicals, Inc. at the Maryland Sand and Gravelstone Company, the Administration is referring this case to you and requesting that you initiate appropriate legal action against the parties responsible for violation of the Natural Resources Article, Annotated Code of Maryland (1974 Volume).

Sincerely,

Herbert M. Sachs

Herbert M. Sachs
Director

HMS:das

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Summary Statement of Facts

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Violators:

Galaxy Chemicals, Inc.
Route 5 Providence
Elkton, Maryland 21921

c/o

William H. Riley, Director
State Dept. of Assessments & Taxation
301 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Maryland Sand and Gravelstone Company
Route 40
Elkton, Maryland 21921

Attention: Lester Summers,
President

Charge:

Violation of Sections 8:1401-1417 of the Natural Resources Article

Statement of Findings:

Organic wastes and wastewaters from Galaxy Chemicals, Inc. were disposed of on the property of Maryland Sand and Gravelstone Company. This disposal practice resulted in pollution of groundwaters and a tributary to Mill Creek, waters of the State.

Chronology of Events:

August, 1974	Administrative investigation initiated.
August 26, 1974	Complaint and Order issued to cease and desist dumping.
October 15, 1974	Complaint issued to appear for a hearing.
November 14, 1974	Recorded hearing conducted.
December 12, 1974	Complaints and Orders issued for corrective measures.
February 13, 1975	Supplemental Orders issued.
August, 1975	Implementation of Orders continuing.

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Cecil County Health Department

MEMORANDUM

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To: Records

Date: May 1, 1975 (Red)

From: W. Sumner

Re: Galaxy Chemical
Md. Sand and Gravelstone Co.

Visited Price residence on Marley Road on April 29, 1975 at approximately 6:00 P.M. Spoke with Mr. and Mrs. Price. They report that they had odors last Wednesday and Thursday, April 22nd and 23rd. No odors since.

I discussed the W.R.A. order to the gravel pit owner and to Mrs. and suggested that the Price's phone me if they detect any additional odors.

WAS:vap

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